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(Mount Clipping In Space Below)

Here's What Russo Said Here Before Going to New Orleans

Editor's Note: The following interview with Perry R. Russo was written Feb. 21 here in Baton Rouge by Bill Barkston of the State-Times staff. Russo came to the newspaper to be interviewed before going to New Orleans to talk to Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison there.

A Baton Rouge m... today (Feb 21) reported to the State-Times that David W. Ferrie told him about a month before the assassination of President Kennedy: "We will get him, and it won't be long."

Perry Raymond Russo, 25, 311 East State St., said he also sent a letter to Orleans Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison about his contacts with Ferrie in the summer and early fall of 1963.

Russo described Ferrie as "screwy but sharp in a brainy way." Russo said he had known Ferrie about 18 months when the statement was made.

"On another occasion about the same time, Russo said Ferrie told him, "You know we can get Kennedy if we want him."

The ease with which a president could be assassinated was discussed several times previous to the statements but with no mention of Kennedy.

"It was just a general conversation," Russo said.

On two occasions, Russo said, he saw Ferrie in the company of Spanish speaking individuals dressed in green fatigue uniforms. They wore helmets, Russo said.

The salesman with Equitable Life Assurance Co. here said two of them came to his home (at that time in New Orleans) with Ferrie.

On the other occasion he met the third at Ferrie's home.

Russo said he was not aware that the Ferrie involved in Garrison's probe of the Kennedy assassination and the Ferrie he knew were the same ... he saw Ferrie's picture ... week in the newspaper. Ferrie was found dead at his home.

The former New Orleans president said he became acquainted with Ferrie through a friend, who was a member of the Civil Air Patrol.

View of Castro

Ferrie told him, Russo said, that Castro was "not a bad guy and that he could be an ally of the United States."

The friend told Russo, that he was training with Ferrie ... jungle warfare "to help bring about more democratic government."

Russo said Ferrie never mentioned Castro in connection with the training.

The friend's family had contacted him, Russo said, in an attempt to break "Ferrie's hold on their son."

Ferrie experimented with hypnotism, and on one occasion he brought a concoction to Russo's with which he wanted to experiment.

The reason for discussing assassinations, Russo said, was his interest in politics. At that time Russo said he was a political science major at Loyola University.

Russo also said he is a Republican and it was because of this that Ferrie mentioned the assassination of Kennedy.

Russo said he always initiated the discussions of politics but never mentioned a dislike for Kennedy. He said he just agreed with Ferrie during the discussions.

Ferrie never used the word assassination, it was always "kill," Russo said.

Russo said he did not take any of Ferrie's statements seriously until he saw Ferrie's picture in connection with Garrison's probe.

Russo said at the time he was living at 4607 Elysian Fields. He received a degree in political science in 1964 from Loyola, and then attended Loyola's Law School.

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